

Claims

1. A method for controlling angiogenesis in an organism, said method comprising:
administering to said organism a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which binds to a galectin.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said galectin is present on the cell surface of a tissue of said organism.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound binds to galectin-1 or
10 galectin-3.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a substantially demethoxylated polygalacturonic acid which is interrupted with rhamnose residues.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a polymeric
15 backbone having side chains dependent therefrom, said side chains being terminated by a galactose or arabinose unit.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a modified
20 pectin.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said modified pectin comprises a pH modified pectin.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said modified pectin comprises an
25 enzymatically modified pectin.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said modified pectin comprises a thermally modified pectin.

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10. The method of claim 6, wherein said modified pectin comprises a modified citrus pectin.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein said modified pectin has a molecular weight in the range of 1-150 kilodalton.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein administering said compound to said organism comprises injecting said compound into said organism.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein administering said compound to said organism comprises topically applying said compound to said organism.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein administering said compound to said organism comprises administering said compound transdermally.

15. 15. The method of claim 1, wherein administering said compound to said organism comprises orally administering said compound.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein administering said compound to said organism comprises administering said compound by inhalation.

17. A method for the therapeutic treatment of a disease in an animal, the progress of which disease is dependent upon neovascularization in the tissues of said animal, said method comprising:
administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which binds to a galectin; whereby said compound decreases the rate of angiogenesis and neovascularization in said tissues.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said compound binds to galectin-1 or galectin-3.

5 19. The method of claim 17, wherein said compound comprises a substantially demethoxylated polygalacturonic acid which is interrupted with rhamnose residues.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said compound comprises a polymeric backbone having side chains dependent therefrom, said side chains being terminated by a galactose or arabinose unit.

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21. The method of claim 17, wherein said compound comprises a modified pectin.